Anno XII. Car. Regis II.

AN ACT FOR THE NECESSARY Maintenance of the WORK of DREINING the Great LEVELL OF THE FENNS.

BE it Enacted by the Kings moſt Excellent Majeſty, by the Advice and with the conſent of the Lords and Commons Aſſembled in Parliament: That for Maintenance and Preſervation of the Great Levell of the Fens, Extending it ſelf into the Counties of *Northampton*, *Norfolk*, *Suffolk*, *Lincolne*, *Cambridge* and *Huntington*, and the Iſle of *Ely* or ſome of them, and for laying and levying of Taxes, and ſecuring the ſaid Levell from drowning onely, That all Taxes already made and Aſſeaſſed, or to be made or Aſſeaſſed onely upon the 95000. Acres given by one pretended Act of Parliament of the 29th. day of *May* 1649. unto *William* Earl of *Bedford*, *Edward Ruſſell* Eſquire, *Robert Henley* Eſquire deceaſed, and *Robert Caſtle* Eſquire; and their Heires and Aſſignes in Truſt for the ſaid Earl, his Participants and Adventurers for dreining of the ſaid Great Levell before the 29th. day of *May* next coming, by colour of or according to the intent of the ſaid pretended Act ſhall ſtand in force, and ſhall and may be collected and gathered; ſo as the ſaid Taxes to be hereafter ſet upon the ſaid 95000. Acres exceed not 3. s. the Acre: And that all Arrears of Rent already incurred upon or out of any part of the ſaid 95000. Acres, or that ſhall incur and grow due before the ſaid 29th. day of *May* next coming, upon any Contract or Leaſe of the Premiſes, or any part or pacell thereof; ſhall be received and recovered, as if the ſaid pretended Act had been a good and Effectual Act, And the Poſſeſſion of the 95000. Acres is ſetled and quieted, as the ſame now is, untill the ſaid 29th. day of *May* next, any thing to the contrary thereof, Notwithſtanding. Provided alwaies, And it is further Enacted and Declared, that this Act nor any thing therein contained ſhall extend, or be conſtrued to extend to preclude the Kings Majeſty, or any other Perſon or Perſons from and after the ſaid 29th. day of *May* 1661. From any Right, Title, Claim or Intereſt, which His Majeſty, or any other Perſon or Perſons had, hath or may have, or pretend to have to any part of the ſaid 95000. Acres mentioned in the ſaid pretended Act. But that all ſuch Right and Title ſhall be preſerved to His Majeſty, and to all ſuch other Perſons after the expiration of this Act, as fully as if this Act had not been made, or according to ſuch determination as ſhall be thereof made by the Parliament before the ſaid 29th. day of *May* 1661. Provided alſo that this Act ſhall not be Conſtrued or made uſe of to Countenance or Confirm any Sales, Forfeiture or other Diſpoſitions, Conveyances or Eſtates of Land made for not payment of Taxes and Aſſeſſements or otherwiſe, or to make good any Act or Thing whatſoever, that hath been or ſhall be done in purſuance or colour of the ſaid pretended Act, after the ſaid 29th. day of *May* 1661. But that all Perſons concerned, and all Things and Eſtates ſhall be, and remaine in the ſame State and Condition from and after the ſaid 29th. of *May*, as if this Act had never been made. Provided alwaies, And be it Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That all ſuch differences as now are or ſhall ariſe between the former Adventurers and the ſaid Earl of *Bedford* and his Participants; And all things in difference and diſpute between the ſaid Earl and Participants, and the Countries within or Bordering upon the ſaid Levell, are not at all Concluded or over-ruled by this Act or any thing therein contained: But all the ſaid differences are left to be determined according to Law and Equity. Provided alwaies, And be it Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That if by occaſion of the Adventurers Works, the Waters ſhall be raiſed higher on the ancient Country Banks then formerly, to the dammage of the Country: That then the Lord Chancellor, Lord Treaſurer, the Judges of the one Bench and other, and Barons of the Exchequer, or any two of them, or the Judges of the Aſſizes in the Reſpective Counties, are hereby impowered upon hearing of parties and Judgement of the Cauſe or Cauſes, to award dammages, open Sluces, and to apply ſuch remedies as ſhall be juſt. Provided alwaies, And be it further Enacted by the Authority aforeſaid, That *Arthur Anneſley* Eſquire, Sir *William Playters*, Sir *Jo. Hewett* Barronets, *Richard Fiennes*, *Samuel Sandys*, *Ra: Phillips*, *William Terringham*, *William Dodſon* and *Anthony St. John* Eſquires, Claiming a fourth part of the ſaid 95000. Acres, be and are hereby conſtituted Commiſsioners to joyne with the Earl of *Bedford* and his Participants for the more orderly ſupport and carrying on the work of the ſaid Levell, during the continuance of this Act.